

ARTICLE APPEARED  
ON PAGE A-6BALTIMORE SUN  
13 September 1983

# Congress blasted for cuts in military aid program

From Wire Services

In the harshest public language the administration has aimed at congressional foes of its Central American policies, Undersecretary of Defense Fred Ikle yesterday accused Congress of crippling President Reagan's military aid program for anti-leftist forces in Central America.

"The president's policy for Central America has not been given a chance to work," Mr. Ikle told the Baltimore Council on Foreign Affairs. "Congress has denied the president the means to succeed."

Unless the White House gets all the money it has requested, "we will have a policy always shy of success. We will remain locked into a protracted failure," he said in his prepared remarks.

He said many Americans were misinformed about Central America and this misinformation "is not accidental, it is the result of a well organized and well orchestrated effort."

He did not elaborate.

He also said that what he called the hard-core insurgents in El Salvador "will never settle for a fair democratic process."

Mr. Ikle criticized a recent House

vote to cut off U.S. covert aid to anti-Sandinista rebels trying to overthrow the government of Nicaragua, saying, "Such a cutoff would signal throughout the region that the totalitarian Leninist forces represent the winning side."

He added the United States "must prevent the consolidation of a Sandinista regime in Nicaragua that would become an arsenal for insurgency ..."

"If we cannot prevent that, we have to anticipate the partition of Central America" between U.S.- and Soviet-led blocs, he said. He added that "such a development would then force us to man a new military front line of the East-West conflict, right here on our continent."

Mr. Ikle, third-ranking Pentagon official and its chief national security policy planner, reserved some of his strongest criticism for Democratic opponents of administration policies.

Recalling Connecticut Democratic Senator Christopher Dodd's statement on behalf of his party that "we will oppose the establishment of Marxist states in Central America," Mr. Ikle said Congress had done exactly the opposite.